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FULFILLMENT OF THE OVER-ALL PLAN FOR SLOVAKIA FOR THE FIRST 5 MONTHS OF 1952

Comment: It may be of interest that in his address Duris first praises Slovakia in a rather vague manner and then proceeds to criticize certain sectors of the economy specifically, especially agriculture.

On 19 June 1952, J. Duris, chairman of the Slovak Board of Commissioners, addressed the plenary meeting of the SNR (Slovak National Council) as follows:

At today's meeting of the SNR, the fulfillment of the over-all plan for Slovakia on the basis of the results from the first 5 months will be evaluated.

If the results of the first 5 months of this year are compared with those for the same period of last year, it may be seen that, in spite of many and serious shortcomings, Slovakia is proceeding successfully toward a socialist economy.

In industry, from January to May 1952 there was an increase of 21.5 percent over the same period of 1951, and of 30.7 percent in heavy industry. Production of brown coal increased 13.6 percent, of iron ore 11.1 percent, of manganese ore 35.4 percent, of electric power 10.6 percent, of rayon 54.4 percent, of linen fabrics 42.1 percent, of plastic sheets 63 percent, and of fuels 62.9 percent. The number of workers in industry increased 5 percent, wages rose 10.9 percent, and the productivity of labor increased 16.1 percent. This increase in the productivity of labor without increasing the number of employees is proof that a new socialist attitude toward work is developing.

Although the fulfillment of the construction investment plan is lagging, output has increased 11.7 percent compared to last year. This means that this year the nation will invest 3.5 percent more in Slovakia than in 1947, that 39 new factories will be put into operation this year, and that progress is being made in the construction of more huge plants, hydroelectric power stations, mines, metallurgical plants, chemical plants, and railroad lines. During the first 5 months, 2,283 new dwelling units were completed.

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Many JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives) of higher types have been strengthened economically and organizationally. During the first 5 months, the number of JZD of types III and IV increased from 726 to 821, or 50 percent of all JZD.

The organization of labor has also improved notably, as was shown in the improved completion of the spring work and hoeing plans. Some of the STS (Machine-Tractor Stations) have also improved their work. The number of livestock approached the planned number by the end of the year 1951, and the plan for pigs, sows, sheep, and chickens is being surpassed; but in the private sector delivery quotas are not being met properly and the number of livestock changes continually, whereas the number of livestock planned is not being reached on the JZD and on the State Farms.

In the first 5 months of 1952, the coal plan was fulfilled only 79.4 percent, iron ore 91.7 percent, cement 87.7 percent, and bricks 91.1 percent. At the same time, plan fulfillment is seriously lagging in very important construction plants, in hydroelectric power plants, in transportation, and in the construction of housing facilities in important industrial centers. Geological prospecting is very far behind, and the opening of new mines is lagging. The high breakdown rate and the poor utilization of machinery lowers production in many plants, and in electric power plants results in frequent and unjustified power failures. Insufficient use is being made of Soviet experience in the organization of production and in the perfection of technological processes, which results in poor quality products in many plants.

The accumulation plan was fulfilled only 74.4 percent in the first 3 months in Slovakia, while the State Farms have exceeded permissible waste by 235 percent. The communal enterprises are fulfilling their accumulation plan only 28.8 percent, transportation plan 79.7 percent, and the construction-industry plan 31.5 percent. Similarly, the plan for the reduction of production costs was fulfilled only 82.6 percent in the first 4 months.

The plan for the organized recruitment of manpower was fulfilled only 93 percent in the first 5 months, although the recruitment for such important plants as the Handlova installations was fulfilled only 35 percent, for Novaky 64 percent, and for the SZB Slovak Iron-Ore Mines 50 percent. At the same time, some plants released more workers than they received. For example, in Rudnany, 218 more workers left the plant than came in, while in Handlova there were 43 fewer workers at the end of May than there had been at the beginning of the year. Absenteeism in the first 5 months was 11 percent, while at Handlova it totaled 16-20 percent, in the Novaky Turbine power plant 19 percent, and in the Iron Factory 40 percent.

Slovakia is dangerously behind in agriculture, and in fulfilling the plan for the number of livestock in cooperative stables on JZD and on the State Farms. We are, therefore, not fulfilling the government resolution on livestock production and supplying meat to the most important sectors of the economy. We are also failing to fulfill the plan for scientific crop and livestock production on the basis of the experience of Soviet agriculture. We are lagging in preparations for the harvest, especially in the STS and in the National Committees.

On JZD which are organized on the basis of national minorities, we are not expanding membership sufficiently, and we do not exploit the achievements of exemplary cooperatives for aiding the establishment of new cooperatives. We have permitted farms above 15 hectares to fulfill their plan for cattle only 36 percent, for cows 25 percent, for pigs 55 percent, and for sows 58 percent. The National Committees continue to permit disorder in keeping records on cattle and on purchasing.

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A very weak spot in Slovakia is the purchase of slaughter cattle. In the first 5 months, the plan for the purchase of cattle was fulfilled only 87.2 percent, of calves 70.3 percent, and of pigs only 67.6 percent, whereas several thousand pigs were illegally slaughtered.

The failure to fulfill the purchase plan and imperfections in distribution are the causes of the frequent failures in supply.

Many Central Administrations do not direct the work of the enterprises directly, but do so only nominally, since to a considerable extent the administrations are isolated from production; they are not sufficiently acquainted with conditions in all plants; they are often acquainted with the plant only on the basis of written reports, and do not know personnel leaders and their capabilities; they do not know plant capacities, reserves, work organization, the methods of plant leadership, production processes, or the relations between the plant leadership, the technical workers, the blue-collar workers, and the manual workers; they are not familiar with the work of the plant party organization, the trade-unions, and the youth union; they fail to see weaknesses and opportunities in the plant. For these reasons they often look at plan fulfillment apathetically, they do not see the endless possibilities in the initiative of the masses and in socialist competition, and they do not know how to aid the plant leaders by pointing out opportunities to them. They are reluctant to introduce operational records and control or the principle of personal responsibility; they do not know how to mobilize the workers; they lose their self-confidence; and for this reason they are not real leaders.

The Main Administration in the cement plants, for example, for a long time explained the failure of the cement-production plan in Horne Srne as caused primarily by reduced delivery of supplies of electric power.

In the Ladce Cement Plants, an important cause of plan nonfulfillment was considered to be the shortage of workers, whereas actually the manpower shortage was so small that the plant management was able to recruit the necessary workers itself and, with the aid of the Central Administration, to concentrate its attention on the main causes of failure to fulfill the plan. In the case of the construction of the Bujanov Tunnel and the hydroelectric power plant in Dobsina, it was confirmed that the manpower plan in many plants was excessively high, and that with better organization of labor the plan could be fulfilled with even fewer workers.

In the agricultural sector, the Main Administration for Livestock Production and the Main Administration for the JZD for many months checked on the number of livestock only in over-all figures. They were not interested in the number of livestock in cooperative stables and in other individual sectors, nor did they even have a plan for these numbers. Therefore they did not know that the JZD were not fulfilling the plan for livestock numbers, were not fulfilling their deliveries, that 1/3 to 1/2 of the animals remained in private stables, and that many cooperative stables were not yet even full. Even operational measures to eliminate this dangerous shortcoming were not taken.

Our Main Administrations and enterprise managements often do not check even on the quality of products, or on whether Soviet technical advances and technological production processes are being applied. Many administrations do not check on the introduction of new methods and shock workers, specialized training, the elevation of new blue-collar workers to leading positions, and the organization of production actives and Stakhanovite schools in the plants.

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A second and basic cause of insufficient plan fulfillment, as Prime Minister Zapotocky pointed out recently, is the fact that in the struggle to fulfill the production plan, to increase the productivity of labor, and to make production more efficient, we fail to utilize socialist competition.

The state apparatus, the commissions, the Main Administrations, the enterprise managements and the trade-union federations do not organize enough socialist competitions. Until recently, they often had no idea of the form that competitions should take, of the best workers in competitions, or of their working methods and results. However, some commissions, Main Administrations, and trade-union federations, in close collaboration with the plants, are beginning to organize competitions and to develop May-Day pledges and pledges in honor of Comrade Siroky.

The Commission for Light Industry, utilizing the experiences and achievements of the Polana Plant in Opatova, systematically supported the development of socialist competition. The invitation extended by the Polana Plant to compete was accepted by 23 enterprises of light industry. Light industry fulfilled its plan in the first 5 months by 101.7 percent, the productivity of labor in May rose by 23.6 percent over May of the previous year, and the number of workers fell by 5.9 percent. This is the only commission in which the plan for the reduction of production costs was fulfilled.

The development of competition is aiding plan fulfillment considerably in many plants, and is even helping in lumbering and transportation, in improving the quality of bread, on several large construction projects, and in the construction of dwelling units, such as in Bratislava, where 306 new dwelling units were completed and readied for use while only 12-15 instead of 30 masons were needed, because Tencer frames were used. The development of competition has made it possible to ready for use 18 new dwelling units per week.

Similarly, on the STS, the State Farms, and the JZD, competition is beginning to bring its first results. Unfortunately in the Handlova and Novaky mines, in iron-ore mines, in cement plants, on many important construction projects, and in a number of other important plants, the Main Administrations, the enterprise managements, and the trade-union organizations do not yet support the development of this decisive method of socialist construction.

Competition is beginning to be directed to the main objectives of the plan: providing for production in shortage areas, increasing the productivity of labor, fulfilling the accumulations plan, reducing actual costs, accelerating the turnover of currency funds, saving materials, reducing stocks, properly maintaining and fully utilizing machinery, and increasing yields and the profitability of livestock.

Our objective will now be for the Main Administrations, together with the trade-union federations and the enterprise managements, to direct the socialist competitions not generally but specifically according to the conditions and requirements of individual plants, enterprises, and Main Administrations. This makes it necessary to know not only the level of fulfillment of the plan in the plants, but to have a precise daily survey of the forms and results of competition, of the best workers and best working methods, as well as to transmit the best experience gained to other plants, to organize and provide personal aid to assure the development of competition in new plants, and personally to aid new shock workers and innovators. In addition, production actives must be convened at two plants which have achieved good results, these plants must be studied, good personnel must be provided to lead the competitions, and the master workmen and technical personnel must be interested in socialist competition.

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Our greatest shortcomings have been the following:

1. The STS are still not prepared for the harvest. They still have not distributed threshing machines and other machinery properly in the individual krajs and okreses according to requirements. Repairs to threshing machines have not yet been 80 percent completed; only 75 percent of the electric motors have been repaired, 50 percent of the stationary motors, and 90 percent of the binders. The quality of repairs is not yet sufficient. The work plan has not yet been broken down and discussed in every STS and tractor brigade, and with every tractor operator and combine operator. The rapid completion of the harvest and of threshing have still not been sufficiently assured by mass political and organizational measures of the STS, particularly by widespread socialist competition.
 2. The harvest plans have not been sufficiently worked out in all sectors. The breakdown and discussion of objectives is done only very generally, as we saw last year. Objectives are not assigned specifically, or on the basis of personal responsibility.
 3. The local and okres National Committees in many localities have again forgotten the sad experience of last year. They are again preparing slowly for the discussion of objectives in the harvest, the threshing, and the purchasing. They hope to meet these objectives by administrative measures, and by vigorous work in the okreses, instead of by political mobilization of all the working public and of all components of the National Front to provide cooperatively for the harvest. Many officials in the National Committees still do not see that the National Committees have a great responsibility to render daily aid in the harvest to the JZD, the STS, the State Farms, and small and middle farmers. In many okreses and obecs, the National Committees are not preparing in time for the rapid completion of purchasing, and are not using the experience gained from the shortcomings in last year's purchasing program, although the imperfect purchasing apparatus required considerable aid from all National Committees, permanent and continuous scrutiny of the fulfillment of objectives, and precise maintenance of political discipline in each obec and in each National Committee.
 4. The JZD are still not in all cases conscious of the fact that it is quite different to organize the harvest on 5 hectares and on 300 hectares. They postpone preparation, they do not discuss each detail, and leave much to chance. The JZD leaders do not in all cases supervise the daily preparation for the harvest, and have not always provided for work groups and machinery.
- In the JZD which are organized on the basis of national minorities, there has not been sufficient discussion of measures to expand the membership, to complete scientific soil treatment immediately after the harvest rather than in the valuable weeks before the fall work, to provide fodder for cooperatively raised livestock, and to transfer animals to cooperative stables.
5. The purchasing apparatus has not yet learned from its mistakes of past years. Livestock purchasing provides ever-new proof of this. We have, however, only a few weeks in which to purchase grain, and therefore the objectives of the purchasing apparatus must be discussed in great detail, and must be assured specifically by means of personal responsibility and proper personnel organization.

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